

FORT PLAIN CENTRAL SCHOOL

Home of the Hilltoppers INFORMATION NETWORK CO-OP

STAFF/MEDIA NEWSLETTER

In an effort to keep our community and staff informed as to decisions made by the Fort Plain Central School Board of Education, a newsletter is issued by the superintendent's office following each board meeting. Comments, questions and suggestions should be directed to Superintendent of Schools, Douglas C. Burton (993-4000x3500). Below, please find highlights of the Board of Education meeting held January 6, 2010.

TIME FOR VISITORS – Mrs. Catherine Brucker, Director of Special Education, spoke on behalf of Mr. David Briggs and the District Level Planning Team. She presented the Biennial Review of Shared Decision Making. She noted that every two years they are required to evaluate their committee as to how they are meeting the criteria of the required components. The Committee rated themselves at moderate Implementation and Success in the following component areas: Educational issues subject to shared decision making; Involvement of all Parties; Means and standards used to evaluate improvement of Student Achievement; Accountability for decisions; and dispute resolution process. The committee rated themselves Minimal Implementation and success in the component area of Coordination of State and Federal Requirements for parental involvement. The committee will continue to meet on a regular basis and work toward achieving their goals which mirror the Board of Education Goals. The Board thanked Mrs. Brucker for her report.

PREVIOUS BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – Mr. Capece asked about the status of the Capital Project. Mr. Burton noted that they are waiting for structural steel in order to continue with outside work but that work is progressing well inside the buildings. He also noted that the Board will continue to receive monthly reports from Mr. Blackwell of Bovis Lend Lease. The next report will be on January 20th. Mr. Vance noted that he read an article involving the Duaneburgh Central School in which their District Bank Accounts were hacked into and money was stolen. Mr. Burton noted that our District does most of our banking through paper transactions which require two signatures. The Business Office continues to monitor our accounts on a daily basis.

BUSINESS MANAGER – None

COMMITTEE REPORTS – None

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS – Mr. Burton provided the Board with a conference report from Mrs. Susan Summerfield. She attended the 59th Annual Association of Mathematics Teacher of New York State conference from November 12-14th. She attended many informative workshops and will be sharing new information with her colleagues at the next professional development day. She thanked the Board for allowing her to attend.

SCHOOL CALENDAR – Mr. Burton supplied the Board with a copy of the draft school calendar for the 2010-2011 school year. He noted that this calendar has been provided by HFM BOCES and has been approved by other districts in our BOCES. The Board approved the 2010-2011 School Calendar as presented.

RACE TO THE TOP GRANT (RTTT) – Mr. Burton provided the Board with information regarding a grant that is available from the United States Department of Education to States that meet the criteria. Mr. Burton noted the NYS Department of Education has provided a Memorandum of Understanding for our District to complete if we are interested in participating. There is no commitment as of this time, the NYSED is seeking interest. Mr. Burton also noted that the School Attorney has reviewed the document and found it to be in order. The Board approved Mr. Burton to complete the Memorandum of Understanding for the Race to the Top Grant.

SECOND READING OF POLICY # 6170 – The Board approved the second reading of revised Policy #6170 Safety of Students (Fingerprinting clearance of new hires).

PUBLIC COMMENT – The Board addressed concerns from members of the public regarding school insurance, current law suits against the School District, employee contracts within the District, the recently implemented spending freeze, the Governor's recent decisions, and tough economic times ahead. Mr. Capece asked Mr. Burton what our district is doing and what can be done to help ease the burden. Mr. Burton and Mr. Fredericks noted that the best thing to do now is to contact our legislators. They noted they will be meeting with Assemblyman Amedore and Senator Farley, as well as other members of the Legislature next week. Students Jillian

Palmer and Caroline Kamp asked the Board for clarification regarding the Student Beverage Policy. They made a presentation to the Board as well as providing them with a petition sign by 200 students asking that students be allowed to have colored drinks in school. Mr. Burton noted that the Wellness Committee will be meeting and will look into the points raised regarding the policies not being in line with each other. Mrs. Dahlin noted that they are planning to review the wellness policy at the next meeting and bring a presentation to the Board at their February meeting. The Board thanked the students for their presentation.

APPROVE PART TIME AFTERSCHOOL AIDE – The Board appointed Jennifer Rivenburgh to the extra duty position of Part Time Afterschool Aide.